

**Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!**  
**Career and Educational Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 4, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Ashley Nevins called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm ET.

**The following members were present:**

Chris Standerford

Glen Ackerman-Behr

Mike Smith

Trent Bellinger

Ashley Nevins

Kevin St. Onge

Cindy Carter

Roy Del Valle

Geralyn Narkiewicz

Erich Ziegler

**The following resources/guests were present:**

Nicholas Gandhi, DTMB

Debb Brunell, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Holly Peoples, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Betsy Erkkila, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Brian Sarvello, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Darren Widder, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Megan Boddy, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

**II. Follow up from February 2023 Meeting: Framing for the Future-Adding relevance to career exploration process.**

The CEAC members and guests split up into breakout rooms to discuss adding relevance and the barriers for the career exploration process. The following is a summary from the breakout rooms:

Room 1: Define framework and activities by grade. Help break down silos and the CEAC should be ambassadors.

Room 2: Teacher externships and communication. Mind Trekkers was great. Should be a central repository of ideas, career navigation, and coordination.

Room 3: Shared calendar, asset mapping, continuum of experiences. Orientation role for new school employees to introduce them to resources and build relationships. Assist counselors to engage in CE. Help them refer students to TRIO, MRS, UPMW, and others for work-based learning.

Room 4: Talk with parents about resources and pathways. Explain differences in pathways (certifications, associate degree, BA, etc.), talent mapping and management. Try to minimize noise and confusion for parents.

### **III. Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes**

There were no approvals.

### **IV. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **V. New Business**

#### **Mind Trekkers**

An update on the Mind Trekkers events was given. The first three of four events served 1500+ 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Teachers and kids enjoyed the event and found it valuable. Gwinn School was 500+, largest event, so far. There was a low exhibitor count. Eight from Michigan Technological University, but no businesses attended. Gwinn School was a great host. The eastern upper peninsula event will be held on 4/21/2023. There are 335 students registered so far. Links are included to sign up. Fundraising has been challenging. \$22K still needed. The events have been a great effort by the CEAC. The full summary of the Mind Trekkers events will be presented at the next CEAC meeting.

#### **Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG)**

JMG serves youth with barriers and provides them with skills that equip them for the future. They work on soft- and hard-skills, and life skills. It is a program for out-of-school youth and helps dropouts. Some are in a one-on-one setting and others are in classrooms. There is a high graduation rate for at-risk youth. More than half of graduates are going on to other programs. The JMG program removes an average of two barriers per year for each participant. Brian Sarvello stressed the importance of JMG. It is a great example of a barrier removal program. Students can reach out to Darren Widder if interested in the program. It is a successful program that should be in every school. UPMW is looking for ways to fund more JMG staff.

## Teacher Externships

Several pilot programs are launching this summer. Counselors are stretched thin, so career awareness is not usually a priority. Try to educate teachers about pathways. Teachers are the frontline because they work with students every day. It was suggested to possibly create a pathway through the CEAC. Currently, there is nothing to help teachers learn about career opportunities. A model is being developed to have teachers do an externship to learn how to initiate a lesson plan to teach career planning. Will target teachers that are already learning into a cohort and include a brief information session. It could be just one day in their training. Thirty teachers could potentially reach 3,000+ students. It was asked if a stipend for 20 teachers could be provided. Industry representatives and students who are further along in the process could also be useful to the plan.

## VI. Grants

**SAE:** The primary focus is youth. Currently, the biggest fields are IT, health care, advanced manufacturing, and education (early childhood). Finance, marketing, and semi-conductors are also a possibility. They will be mostly work-based-learning programs. Businesses are finally understanding that they need to play an active role in helping educate youth. The schools can't do it all. Employers can step in where schools need help. The best opportunity now is in internships. These are great opportunities for high school students. Employers can reach out to BS staff or Brian. Education apprenticeships have still been quiet.

**Young Professionals:** By the end of February last program year, we had served 59 students through 40 employers. There is less money available for YP 2023. We were awarded \$250K, which was a tie for the highest amount. We are planning to serve 50 through February 2024, plus supporting the UPCC trades camp and U.P. Construction Connect. We served 11 counties last time. The money can't be used for Mind Trekkers. Training is usually a work-based-learning program of five to eight weeks.

**MiLEAP:** We surpassed our target number. Most of the money is spent. There is some left for curriculum and training costs. Healthcare was the biggest industry (33%). Many were LPN to RN transitions. CNA and CDL were also popular. There are still many more workers needed in these professions. About 40 took management training.

**MiREACH:** The grant period runs through December 2024. This program has helped a lot of RNs and CNAs. We are also serving incumbent workers with MiREACH.

## VII. Cybersecurity and Technology U.P. Ecosystem Discussion

The Cybersecurity Marshall Plan was awarded to the U.P. The MiSTEM network is also helping. A lot has happened in the last five years. There has been an explosion of effort and opportunity. NMU has run cyber camps since 2014. They were

previously hard to fill. Partnerships have been helping and now attendance is way up. Forty students stay for two weeks. There were 90 applicants for the last camp. They are mostly U.P. students.

### **VIII. Next Meeting**

June 13, 2023, is the next proposed CEAC meeting date.